

and allied insects of Britain and Ireland. ITE). Together with the re-discovery by Stephen Hewitt in 1995 of *Nothochrysa fulviceps* (Stephens), which had previously not been seen in Britain since 1958 (see Neuroptera Recording Scheme Newsletter 16: 2) this leaves only *Hemerobius contumax* Tjeder on my list of presumed extinct British lacewings (see Plant *op. cit.*). *H. contumax* has not been seen in Britain since 1952 when one was taken at Leith Hill, Surrey; it is supposedly associated with *Pinus sylvestris*. Readers will hopefully take this as a challenge!— COLIN W. PLANT, 14 West Road, Bishops Stortford, Herts CM23 3QP.

***Halictophagus silwoodensis* Waloff, 1981 (Strepsiptera: Halictophagidae) confirmed as a Scottish Insect**

Strepsiptera are parasitic in their larval stages on a variety of other insects. The genus *Halictophagus* (and the family Halictophagidae) contains only two British species, *H. curtisii* Dale, 1832 and *H. silwoodensis* Waloff, 1981. *Halictophagus curtisii* is only known in Britain from the male holotype from Dorset, while both sexes of *H. silwoodensis* and its life history on *Ulopa reticulata* (F.) (Hom.: Cicadellidae) were described by Waloff (1981, *Syst. Ent.* 6: 103-113) from Berkshire (Silwood Park). It is also known from France and Finland (Waloff, *op. cit.*). The males of the two species differ in the form of the antennae and the shape of the aedeagus.

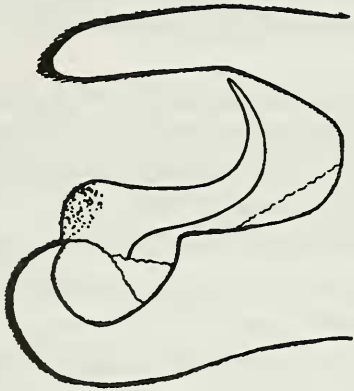


Figure 1.
Terminal part of abdomen of *Halictophagus silwoodensis* from Perthshire

In 1975, Crowson (*Ent. mon. Mag.* 111: 62) reported finding a female *Halictophagus* species on *Eupelix cuspidata* (F.) (Hom.: Cicadellidae) in Wigtownshire and provisionally ascribed it to *H. curtisii*, the only British species known at the time. The true identity of this specimen is still uncertain. A single male strepsipteran was taken in a malaise trap by the Allt Féith Làir (OS grid reference NO 012802), Fealar, Perthshire (VC89) between 17-22.vi.1998. Comparison of this specimen with Waloff's description showed it to be *H. silwoodensis* Waloff, 1981, the first confirmed specimen of this species from Scotland. The aedeagus of the present specimen differs slightly from that photographed by Waloff in being slightly more angled at the base but all other characters match. The host of this species in the Highlands of Scotland is unknown. The only bugs taken in the vicinity at the same

time were *Javesella discolor* (Boheman, 1849) and *Northodelphax distinctus* (Flor, 1861) (Delphacidae), both more usually host to strepsipterans of the genus *Elenchus* Curtis.— K.P. BLAND, National Museums of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF.

Geranium Bronze *Cacyreus marshalli* Butler (Lep.: Lycaenidae) in the Algarve, Portugal

Myself and my girlfriend spent a week, from 18 May to 25 May 1998, holidaying in the Algarve. We were based in Monte Gordo, a resort in the eastern Algarve close to the Spanish border. On 19 May, the first full day of our trip, we decided to look around the nearby Reserva Natural Do Sapal De Castro Marim, a major bird reserve. It was certainly a fascinating place and well worth a visit, with Cattle Egret and Marsh Harrier among the birds to be seen, but the most interesting discovery was made after stopping for refreshments in the small town of Castro Marim itself.

We decided to walk up to the medieval fortress which dominates the town, anticipating some excellent views over the Reserve and the Rio Guadiana, which forms the border with Spain. The steep hillside leading up to the castle was covered in patches of scrub and a profusion of grasses and wild flowers. While climbing up to the gates, I saw a “blue” butterfly flit across the track and settle in some thistles. Before I could get close, it moved again, but fortunately, despite the glare of the sun, I just about managed to follow its flight. The butterfly landed amongst flowers about three metres above us on the slope under the battlements. I scrambled up towards it and luckily found it again immediately, sitting sideways-on with its wings closed.

I had been expecting to see Lang’s Short-tailed Blue *Leptotes pirithous* L. while in the Algarve so, when close enough to see that the butterfly had short tails and a grey and white underside, my expectations seemed about to be confirmed. Nonetheless, I took a close look, to ensure that it wasn’t a small specimen of the Long-tailed Blue.

The underside pattern seemed too strongly-contrasting for *pirithous*, with areas tinged brownish. On cue, the butterfly opened its wings to reveal a uniform, shiny brown upperside with a white and black checked fringe, particularly on the forewings. It was a fine specimen of the Geranium Bronze *Cacyreus marshalli*. This was quickly confirmed by checking the identification in the new edition of the Collins *Field Guide to the Butterflies of Britain & Europe* by Tolman & Lewington (1997).

Naturally, it was quite pleasing to think that I might be the first person to have found *marshalli* on Portuguese soil, albeit Castro Marim is only 3km from the border. But Portuguese flower-growers would no doubt be less thrilled to learn of the discovery of this South African pest species! I thought the butterfly might turn up again in other areas during the week, perhaps in the western Algarve, which would go some way towards showing that *marshalli* is a resident. Geraniums appear to be as popular in the Algarve as they are elsewhere in the Iberian peninsula, with fine displays in many gardens and on balconies in the towns. But despite looking out for the butterfly in suitable spots both in town and country areas to the west, I did not see it again.— MARTIN J. WHITE, 8 St.Nicholas Square, Martin Quarter, Swansea SA1 1UG,